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April 28, 2003

Contact: Kevin Hardy

Statewide College Readiness Fairs To Promote Academic Preparation

The first of a statewide series of college readiness fairs for 8th, 9th and 10th graders will be held this Wednesday, April 30, at 9:00 a.m. on the campus of Southern University in Baton Rouge. The fairs, being hosted by public colleges and universities across the state are one important way the institutions and the Board of Regents are working to ensure that Louisiana high school students will be academically prepared to meet the state's new, more stringent admission standards for public, four-year universities. The new standards are scheduled for full implementation by the fall of 2005.

While the fairs will be held at college campuses in every region of the state (see tentative schedule below), representatives from public, four-year universities *statewide* will be on hand at each of the events to answer students' questions about their specific institutions. In addition to the opportunity for interaction with campus representatives, students will also receive valuable information on such topics as the new four-year admission standards, the TOPS program and other tuition assistance, and how to select and apply to a college or university.

Representatives from the armed services, the Louisiana Department of Labor and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System will also be on hand to advise students who may not be planning to enter a four-year institution after high school.

"These programs are designed to reach students at the beginning of their high school careers and provide information that will be beneficial to them in their college preparatory process," said statewide event coordinator Joe Cruse, Associate Director of Freshman Admissions at the University of New Orleans.

"Our goal is to drive home to our students across the state that the junior year of high school is not the time to begin thinking about college, particularly if they plan to attend a four-year university," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joe Savoie. "We've got a lot of bright students in this state who deserve the chance to pursue a college education. These fairs are all about enhancing student access to our postsecondary education system by informing students and parents about the quality educational opportunities available in Louisiana after high school.

A tentative schedule of the fairs follows. Please contact the person listed to confirm the date, time and details of a given fair.

(More)

Freshman Fairs
ADD ONE

Freshman Fair Tentative Locations, Dates and Times

Host Site	Date	Contact Name	Contact Phone #
Southern – Baton Rouge	Wednesday, April 30, 2003 – 9 a.m.	Velva Thomas	(225)771-2430
Southeastern Louisiana University	Saturday, May 3, 2003 – 10 a.m.	Chris McLellan	(985)549-5235
UL – Lafayette	Saturday, May 3, 2003 – 9 a.m.	Gwen Taylor	(337)482-5923
UL – Monroe	Thursday, May 8, 2003 – 6 p.m.	Lisa Miller	(318)342-5430
University of New Orleans	Saturday, May 10, 2003 – 9 a.m.	Joe Cruse	(504)280-6598
Northwestern State University	Thursday, May 15, 2003 – 9 a.m.	April Jordan	(318)357-4503
LSU – Alexandria	Friday, May 16, 2003 – 9 a.m.	Shelly Kieffer	(318)473-6508
LSU – Shreveport	Thursday, May 22, 2003 - 9 a.m.	Kristy Paul	(318)797 5061
LSU – Baton Rouge	Saturday, May 24, 2003 – 9 a.m.	Andy Benoit	(225)578-4335
McNeese State University	Friday, August 1, 2003 - TBA	John Martin	(337)475-5506
Nicholls State University	August, 2003 (TBA)	Amy Trainor	(985) 448-4155

